

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a cast-coated paper, comprising the steps of:

applying a coating color comprising a pigment and an adhesive on one side of a base paper,

pressing/drying the coated layer in a wet state against a mirror surface of a casting drum, and

adding moisture to the coated paper by maintaining both sides of the cast-coated paper in an air which is conditioned at 20-80°C, 50-95% RH for 20 seconds or more and by blowing the conditioned air directly onto the both sides of the cast-coated ~~surface~~paper, the coated surface and the opposite surface, using a plurality of air nozzles as the paper moves along an open draw, after pressing/drying the coated layer against a casting drum and before reeling.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1, wherein wrinkles are prevented by using an expander roll during the hydration of the cast-coated paper by blowing conditioned air.

4. (Previously Presented) The process for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 1, wherein said process further comprises the step of applying water or an aqueous solution or an aqueous dispersion of a pigment or the like onto the opposite surface to the cast-coated surface and drying it immediately after pressing/drying the coated layer against a casting drum and before maintaining the coated paper in the conditioned air.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper, comprising: (1) a coater head for applying a coating color comprising a pigment and an adhesive on one side of a base paper, (2) a casting drum for pressing/drying the coated layer in a wet state against a mirror surface of a casting drum, and (3) a conditioned chamber having an inlet and an outlet for a web of cast-coated paper in this order,

wherein said chamber is connected to a blower for sending conditioned air into said chamber and has a conditioned air vent, whereby said chamber is conditioned at 20°C - 80°C, 50 - 95% RH and both sides of said web is maintained in said chamber for 20 seconds or more, and wherein said chamber has a plurality of air nozzles for blowing the conditioned air directly onto both sides of said web as the paper moves along an open draw.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 6, wherein an expander roll for preventing wrinkles is provided in said conditioned chamber.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for producing a cast-coated paper of claim 6, comprising a water applicator for applying water or an aqueous solution or an aqueous dispersion of a pigment or the like onto the opposite surface to the cast-coated surface after said casting drum and before said conditioned chamber.